

# GREEN GROWTH:

## A Historical Timeline of Earth Day and Green Awareness.

June 4, 1916:



The founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson, is born in the city of Clear Lake, Wisconsin.



1962

Silent Spring, a book by Rachel Carson about the dangers of pesticides, becomes a runaway bestseller.

1963



Senator Nelson persuades President John F. Kennedy to tour the country to see firsthand, the lack of awareness of the environment.

1969



Senator Gaylord Nelson announces an upcoming environmental "teach-in" called Earth Day.



April 22, 1970

The first Earth Day is attended by 20 million people in cities all over the United States.



December 1970

President Richard M. Nixon establishes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect human health, air, water, and land.

1972

The Clean Water Act is passed. This act sets limits on the discharge of pollutants into U.S. waterways.

1980

Gaylord Nelson loses his bid for a fourth term as Wisconsin senator and is appointed counselor for an environmental group called The Wilderness Society.

1995

President Bill Clinton bestows the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award on Gaylord Nelson in recognition of his work on behalf of the environment.

July 3, 2005

Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day, dies at age 89.

2010

To commemorate the 40th Earth Day celebration, a climate rally and concert are held at Washington, D.C.'s National Mall.[i]

2012

Over one billion people in 192 countries take part in the 42nd celebration of Earth Day. The theme is, Mobilize the Earth.[iii]

1969

The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catches fire after contamination with chemical waste, drawing attention to the exploitation and pollution of the nation's waterways by industry.



1970

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), an environmental advocacy group, is founded.



1971

GREENPEACE

The activist organization Greenpeace is founded and becomes a voice against such issues as nuclear power, global warming, and whaling.

1973

The Endangered Species Act is passed. This act serves to protect the animals and the ecosystems in which they live.

1990

The 20th celebration of Earth Day goes global with participants taking part in more than 140 nations, worldwide.



2000

The 30th celebration of Earth Day is celebrated by several hundred million people spread out in 184 countries. The theme of the day is Clean Energy.



2007

Over 40,000 people attend the Earth Day celebration held at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Illinois, setting a record for the largest single-day zoo attendance record.



2011

Washington, D.C.'s National Zoo hosts an Earth Day cleanup event in which participants pick up gum wrappers, soda cans, and other trash for recycling or disposal.[ii]



2013

The theme of the 43rd annual Earth Day celebration is The Face of Climate Change.



Green Action #1



Purchase or make your own green cleaning products.

Green Action #3



Arrange a walking school bus for your child.

Green Action #5



Installing weather stripping or caulking around doors and windows can reduce the amount of energy you need to heat and cool your home.

Green Action #2

Gather some friends, go to a local park, and gather litter for disposal and recycling.



Green Action #4

Make global friends on Facebook to learn about other countries and the environmental issues they face.



Green Action #6

Bring your own reusable bags when shopping.



[i] <http://www.history.com/topics/earth-day-timeline>  
[ii] <http://blog.enviroment.com/2011/04/20/recap-of-earth-day-events-around-the-world.html>  
[iii] <http://www.earthday.org/2012>